14th December 1961]

* 2329 *Q.*—SRI K. RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any application for licences to instal power-looms at Paramakudi in Ramanathapuram district have been received; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken on them?

THE HON. SRI R VENKATARAMAN : (*a*) & (*b*) Ten applications were received from Paramakudi taluk for permission to instal powerlooms. The policy of the Government is not to permit the installation of new powerlooms in order to protect the handloom industry. However, under an All-India experimental scheme it was proposed to introduce 2,500 power-looms in the handloom sector on decentralised basis during the Third Five-Year Plan and the State Government decided to introduce these looms in the weavers Co-operatives up to a certain percentage of handlooms on application. The District Revenue Officer, Ramanathapuram was therefore instructed to advise the applicants from Paramakudi to organise themselves into a Co-operative Society and apply for allotment of looms under this scheme. The Government of India have meanwhile decided not to implement the scheme of installation of new powerlooms except in cases where the State Governments have already made irrevocable commitments. The decision of the Government of India is being examined by the State Government.

Tobacco Cultivation (Kanyakumari district)

* 2330 *Q.*—SRI T. S. RAMASWAMI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased to state—

(*a*) the area of cultivation of tobacco in Kanyakumari district for the last two years;

(*b*) the variety and quantity of tobacco produced; and

(*c*) the nature of help given by the Government to tobacco cultivators?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :

		ACRES.
(*a*)	1959–60	205·74
	1960–61	95·11

(*b*) Chewing variety of "Jaffna type" Quantity produced during 1959–60—4,00,000 lbs. Figures for 1960–61 are not available.

(*c*) Government disseminate knowledge to tobacco growers by propaganda and conduct demonstrations in the scientific methods of cultivation, harvesting, curing, processing, handling, grading, storage and disposal.

SRI T. S. RAMASWAMI : May I know whether any trained personnel are there to disseminate this knowledge?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Yes, Sir. There are experts who initiate this propaganda among the ryots.